



FATIMAGATE!

Has the Third Secret of Fátima been revealed or covered up?

by John Hogue © 2000

On 26 May 2000, the Vatican finally released the long-awaited Third Secret of Fátima.

Fifty-six years earlier, Sister Lucia de Jesus dos Santos (custodian of this prophecy) claimed that an apparition of the Virgin Mary had given her a specific date for the revelation of this Secret. She said that the Pope must permit its dissemination to the world "no later than 1960". Forty years later, the Vatican's chief theologian, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, finally presented the document at a press conference on 26 May. This is how it reads:

The Prophecy of the Third Secret

"I write in obedience to you, my God, who commands me to do so through his Excellency the Bishop of Leiria and through your most Holy Mother and mine.

"After the two parts which I have already explained, at the left of Our Lady and a little above we saw an angel with a flaming sword in his left hand. Flashing, it gave out flames that looked as though they would set the world on fire. But they died out in contact with the splendour that Our Lady radiated towards him from her right hand. Pointing to the earth with his right

hand, the angel cried out in a loud voice, 'Penance, penance, penance!'

"And we saw in an immense light that is God—something similar to how people appear in a mirror when they pass in front of it—a bishop dressed in white. We had the impression that it was the Holy Father.

"Other bishops, priests, religious men and women were going up a steep mountain, at the top of which there was a big cross of rough-hewn trunks as of a cork-tree with the bark.

"Before reaching there, the Holy Father passed through a big city half in ruins, and half-trembling with halting step, afflicted with pain and sorrow, he prayed for the souls of the corpses he met on his way.

"Having reached the top of the mountain, on his knees at the foot of the big cross he was killed by a group of soldiers who fired bullets and arrows at him; and in the same way, there died one after another the bishops, priests, religious men and women, and various lay people of different ranks and positions.

"Beneath the two arms of the cross there were two angels, each with a crystal aspersorium in his hand, in which they gathered up the blood of the martyrs and with it sprinkled the souls that were making their way to God."

(End of prophecy)

The prophecy and Cardinal Ratzinger's interpretation have stunned and upset many Catholics and prophecy-watchers around the world. The Cardinal, who heads the papal cabinet, the Office for the Doctrine of the Faith (better known in history as the Office of the Grand Inquisitor), declared that the Third Secret only referred to events which have already happened.

"A careful reading of the text will probably prove disappointing or surprising after all the speculation it has stirred," said Cardinal Ratzinger at the press conference. "No great mystery is revealed; nor is the future unveiled," he added.

The good Cardinal thinks the assassination of a Pope and a multitude of Catholic bishops, priests and laity on a mountaintop before a half-ruined city fulfills a specific past event. He would have the world believe that the prophecy describes the assassination attempt on Pope John Paul II by Mehmet Ali Agca in 1981.

Many believe they have experienced nothing less than a "white cassock wash" of one of Catholicism's most anticipated prophetic messages.

In all my 30 years as a scholar of prophetic traditions, I have seen some interpretive stretches—but Cardinal Ratzinger's spin on this prophecy is as weak as they come. Indeed, I have seen more imaginative twists of reason made by

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the *National Enquirer*. I would not even pin 10 per cent of the Third Secret he presented as a fulfilled prophecy.

Many of the facts about that event just do not match the prophecy. Agca's bullets wounded the Pope and two bystanders. No-one died, and no bishops, priests and laity were martyred as the prophecy demanded. As far as I know, Rome stood undamaged in 1981, and the scene of the assassination was not on top of a mountain but on the flat plain of the Vatican plaza.

Beyond the interpretation of the Third Secret, there are a number of factual inconsistencies in Cardinal Ratzinger's past and current statements about it. It is a well-known fact among Fátima prophecy-watchers that the first line of the Third Secret revealed on 26 May is not the line proclaimed decades ago by Sister Lucia.

A number of those who have seen the prophecy (among them the late Father Malachi Martin) describe a vision diametrically different in content than that presented on 26 May. Even the Third Secret's physical pages, offered as evidence at the news conference, are suspect. Up to 26 May, Cardinal Ratzinger officially agreed with other witnesses that Sister Lucia wrote the prophecy in 24 lines on a single page. Now Ratzinger presents a four-page, handwritten document of 62 lines!

These and many other inconsistencies and prophetic stretches only add support to a growing belief that the highest echelons of the Vatican are involved in a cover-up.

(Source: John Hogue, author of *"Messiahs: The Visions and Prophecies for the Second Coming"*, *"The Last Pope: The Decline and Fall of the Church of Rome"*, and *"Nostradamus: The Complete Prophecies"*, website www.hogueprophecy.com)

ANCIENT TEMPLE DISCOVERED BENEATH LAKE TITICACA

A stone anchor and animal bones are among the artefacts scientists say they have found beneath Lake Titicaca in the Andes, in what they claim is a giant temple over 1,000 years old.

After 18 days of diving below the clear waters of Titicaca, scientists said on Tuesday, 22 August, that they had discovered a temple, a crop terrace, a pre-Incan road, a containing wall and a number of ceramic artefacts on the lake's floor.

"We've found what appears to have been a 200-metre-long, 50-metre-wide holy temple, a terrace for crops, a pre-Incan road and an 800-metre-long containing wall," said Lorenzo Epis, the Italian leader of the Atahualpa 2000 expedition.

While a submerged city has not been found, Mr Epis said that the ruins appeared to be 1,000 to 1,500 years old. They thus predate the Incas and could point to the Tiahuanaco people who lived on Titicaca's shores before becoming part of the Inca Empire.

Lake Titicaca, some 12,464 feet (3,800 metres) above sea level, lies on the border between Bolivia and Peru and is the highest

navigable lake in the world. It has long been the subject of legends about a lost underwater city, but there has been little research because of the logistical difficulties of diving at altitude.

"I strongly support the hypothesis that what was found by the Atahualpa 2000 expedition are the ruins of a submerged pre-Columbian temple," said Eduardo Pareja, a Bolivian scientist who was

among those who explored the site, around 90 miles northeast of Bolivia's capital, La Paz.

The Atahualpa 2000 expedition—backed by the international scientific group Akakor Geographical Exploring, and funded by ENTEL, a Bolivian telecommunication company owned by the Italian corporation STET—first made a trip to Titicaca in 1998 to look at underwater caves and to research diving techniques at high altitude.

Marco Antonio Simi, who was on that expedition, said that the groundwork on pressure levels allowed the group to return this year. Most diving technology is based on ocean-bound dives, where pressure levels are very different.

The team was looking for an underwater temple.

"What they found was the beginning of what they were looking for," Simi said.

The team made more than 200 dives into water as deep as 65 to 100 feet (20 to 30.5 metres) and recorded their finds on film.

The expedition is to publish its full findings in November and has plans to raise more archaeological remains to the surface. (Source: *The Guardian, UK, 24 August 2000*)

SYRIAN RUINS REVISE BIRTH OF URBAN CULTURE

A joint Syrian-American excavation team has uncovered the ruins of a city dating back to around 4000 to 3700 BC, which suggest that the rise of urban civilisation occurred earlier than previously thought—and before the invention of writing.

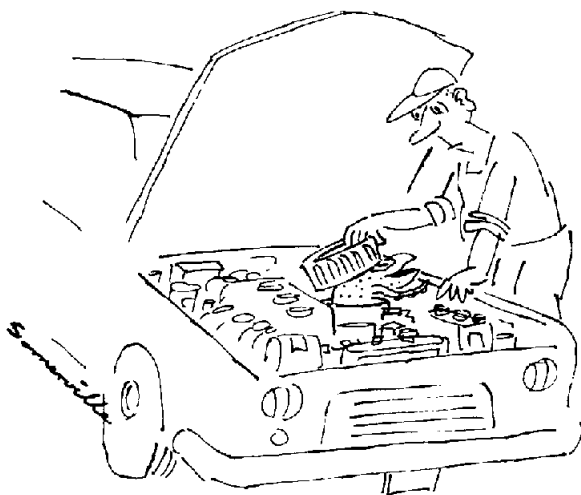
Archaeologists from the excavation team found a protective city wall under a huge mound in a region of northeastern Syria known as Tell Hamoukar.

Until the discovery last year, archaeologists claimed that the only cities dating back to 4000 BC were in Sumeria, between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, in an area that is now Iraq.

The discovery at Tell Hamoukar suggests that ideas behind cities may have predated the Sumerians, according to McGuire Gibson of the University of Chicago's Oriental Institute, the joint partner in the excavation.

"We need to reconsider our ideas about the beginnings of civilisation, pushing the time further back," said Gibson.

Tell Hamoukar is located between the legendary Tigris and Euphrates rivers in what is Syria today. In the earliest period



"Hello, I am Zyrxxx. I am one of an extraterrestrial race that travels from planet to planet invading and taking over carburetors."

of occupation, from 4000 to 3700 BC, it was spread out over at least 500 acres, making it comparable in size to some of the largest ancient cities in the Middle East, though Gibson said "the entire 500 acres were probably not inhabited at any one time".

During the second habitation phase around 3700 to 3500 BC—still before any evidence of Uruk colonists or the introduction of writing—it was a well-organised, prosperous town of about 30 acres, apparently enclosed by a defensive wall 10 feet high by 13 feet wide. There is evidence of food preparation on an institutional scale, with large ovens and cooking pots. It's believed the population may have reached 25,000 there in the Mesopotamian period.

Dr Mouhammed Maktash, director of the Syrian-American joint excavation, commented: "There is no question this is the most exciting find I have come across. Of course you can find older individual pieces [artefacts], but there is a big difference between a small village and a city."

Dr Maktash, who is director of antiquities at the regional museum at Raqqa, told the London *Independent* newspaper that one of the most astonishing finds was of living quarters, double-walled "to encourage air flow, suggesting the inhabitants had designed their own air-conditioning system to combat summer temperatures of more than 40 degrees Centigrade".

The excavation team has also unearthed stone god icons and other artefacts, such as porcelain figurines of lions, leopards, bears and horses, together with pottery and 7,000 beads, suggestive of an advanced culture.

"From the beginning, we knew that Hamoukar was very old; but when we excavated, we found things we have never seen before," said Dr Maktash.

Surface indications and excavations show that the area was occupied at various times, and include more recent Hellenistic and early Islamic material.

The discoveries will prompt a reassessment

of how mankind developed in the "cradle of civilisation" between the two great Middle Eastern rivers. Historians have theorised that the Sumerians established the oldest known "modern" civilisation in about 3500 BC.

According to Maktash, "...we don't know who the people were who lived at Hamoukar. If they were here first, the big question is: where did the Sumerian civilisation come from—from nothing? It's possible they came from Hamoukar. This will change many things in our understanding of history."

(Sources: *Associated Press*, 23 May 2000; *Independent*, 3 July 2000; University of Chicago Chronicle, 25 May 2000, website <http://chronicle.uchicago.edu/000525/civilization.shtml>)

GEOMAGNETIC DATA CONFIRMS EARLIER "OUT OF AFRICA" MIGRATION

Using geological clues from an ancient shift in the Earth's magnetic field, scientists working in Israel have significantly pushed back the date of an "out of Africa" migration of early humans that brought new technologies to Eurasia in the midst of the early Ice Age.

Their findings also indicate that our ancestors' tool-making skills were more sophisticated for that time than previously believed.

A team, working at the archaeologically rich site of Gesher Benot Ya'aqov (GBY) in the Dead Sea rift of northern Israel,

found that early humans belonging to the species *Homo erectus* traversed the corridor between Africa and Eurasia 780,000 years ago, bringing with them new technologies.

According to co-author Craig Feibel, a geologist and assistant professor of anthropology and geology at Rutgers University, the findings indicate this migration occurred some 250,000 years earlier than had been suspected.

They also confirm that the site's abundant trove of stone tools, including hand-axes and cleavers, reflects a higher level of skill and sophistication than scientists thought existed at that time.

Feibel, who was one of two geologists on the team, reconstructed the geological sequence from sediments at GBY. The sediments showed clear evidence dating them to the most recent reversal in the Earth's magnetic field 780,000 years ago.

"Until this recent work, we didn't have a clear age-estimate. Scientists had estimated the technology and associated flora and fauna at a half-million years, but that was conservative," Feibel said. "This time we were fortunate to find in the sediments a record of the shift in the Earth's magnetic field, which is a well-dated phenomenon."

Feibel noted the discovery was a serendipitous one that solved a longstanding mystery regarding the site's true age.

(Sources: *Science*, vol. 289, no. 5481, 11 August 2000; *ABC News*, www.abcnews.go.com/sections/science/DailyNews/hominid-000811.html)

